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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS 2000 NAVY PENTAGON WASHINGTON, DC 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 3120.35J N863C 27 JUNE 2000

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 3120.35J

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: REQUIREMENTS FOR AIR CAPABLE, AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT, AND MINE

COUNTERMEASURES SHIPS TO OPERATE AIRCRAFT

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 3120.28B (NOTAL)

(b) NAVAIRINST 3120.1C (NOTAL)

(c) Air Capable Ship Aviation Facilities Bulletin, No. 1H (NOTAL)

(d) Amphibious Assault Ship Aviation Facilities Bulletin, No. 1A (NOTAL)

(e) NAWCADLKE-CRD-48J400-0001, Mine Countermeasure Support Ship, Certification Requirements Document (NOTAL)

Encl: (1) Aviation Operational Requirements for Air Capable Ships

(2) Aviation Operational Requirements For LHA, LHD and MCS Ships

- 1. <u>Purpose</u>. To define the level, class, and type aviation facilities requirements for air capable, amphibious assault, and mine countermeasure ships to operate specified aircraft. This instruction has been revised in its entirety to incorporate the V22, SH-60R and CH60S aircraft, and reflect changes in air capable ships.
- 2. Cancellation. OPNAV Instruction 3120.35H

3. Discussion

- a. The aviation facilities requirements updated by this instruction cover the full spectrum of aviation operations from the launch and recovery to personnel and stores transfer. To ensure safe aircraft operations, all afloat aviation facilities are to be certified.
- b. The variety of ship configurations that occur as a result of the unique mission requirements complicates the problem of certification standardization in the fleet. Reference (a) establishes the requirements for formalized ship certification, which ensures the maintenance of proper standards for afloat aviation facilities and defines the basis of the certification program. Reference (b) outlines responsibilities for certification and inspection of aviation facilities in naval ships operating aircraft. Reference (c) defines the minimum standards for safe aircraft operation and defines the levels, classes, and types of facility requirements categorized in enclosure (1) for air capable ships. References (d) and (e) define the minimum standards for safe aircraft operations and defines the OPNAVINST 3120.35J

levels and classes categorized in enclosure (2) for amphibious assault and mine countermeasure ships, respectively.

- c. The certification of an afloat aviation facility does not constitute an authorization to conduct air operations. Authorization to operate aircraft aboard ships is the responsibility of the fleet commanders or Commander, Military Sealift Command, as applicable.
- 4. <u>Action</u>. All air capable, amphibious assault, and mine countermeasure ships shall be certified in accordance with reference (a) to operate with the specified aircraft according to the levels and classes, and types of aviation facilities defined in enclosures (1) and (2).

DAVID M. STONE Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy Deputy Director, Surface Warfare

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(U.S. Coast Guard)
SNDL B5
            (Fleet Commander in Chief)
       21A
       41A (Military Sealift Command)
       FKA1A (COMNAVAIRSYSCOM)
       FKA1G (COMNAVSEASYSCOM)
OPNAV (N85, N86, N88)
Copy to:
SNDL
             (Secretary of the Navy)
      A1A
             (Under Secretary of the Navy)
       A1B
      A6
             (Commandant of the Marine Corps)
             (Offices of the Secretaries of Defense)
       B1B
       22A
             (Fleet Commanders)
             (Force Commanders)
       23
       24
             (Type Commanders)
       26
             (Special Commands, Groups, and Units)
             (Squadron and Group Commanders-Ships)
       28
       29
             (Warships)
       30
             (Mine Warfare Ships)
             (Amphibious Warfare Ship)
       31
       32
             (Auxiliary Ships)
             (Service Craft)
       36
            (Aviation)
       42
            (Unified Commands)
       50A
       C84
             (COMNAVSEASYSCOM Shore Based Detachments)
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Distribution:

LEVEL I - DAY AND NIGHT OPERATIONS, INSTRUMENT METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS

LEVEL II - DAY AND NIGHT OPERATIONS, VISUAL METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS

LEVEL III - DAY ONLY OPERATIONS, VISUAL METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS

CLASS 1 - LANDING AREA WITH SUPPORT (SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE) FACILITIES

CLASS 2 - LANDING AREA WITH SERVICE FACILITIES BUT WITHOUT MAINTENANCE FACILITIES

CLASS 2A - LANDING AREA WITH LIMITED SERVICE FACILITIES BUT WITHOUT MAINTENANCE FACILITIES

CLASS 3 - LANDING AREA WITHOUT SUPPORT FACILITIES

CLASS 4 - VERTREP/EXTERNAL LIFT AREA (HOVER IN EXCESS OF 5 FEET)

CLASS 5 - VERTREP/EXTERNAL LIFT AREA (HOVER IN EXCESS OF 15 FEET)

CLASS 6 - HIFR FACILITY CAPABLE OF AT LEAST 50 GPM AT 20 PSI TO 40 FEET ABOVE WATER

CLASS 6R - HIFR FACILITY CAPABLE OF ONLY 25-49 GPM AT 20 PSI TO 40 FEET ABOVE WATER

TYPE 1 - MINIMUM CLASS 4 OR 5 AREA THAT REQUIRES PICKUP AND DELIVERY ON THE LINEUP LINE

TYPE 2 - CLASS 4 OR 5 AREA WITH A SINGLE TEE LINE MARKED ON THE DECK

SPECIAL TYPE 2 (SP2) - SAME AS TYPE 2, BUT WITH TEE AND TEE BALL LINES MARKED ON THE DECK

TYPE 3 - SAME AS TYPE 2, BUT WITH TWO TEE LINES ON THE DECK

U.S NAVY, MARINE CORPS, COAST GUARD, ARMY AND AIR FORCE AIRCRAFT (SEE NOTE 1)

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T - AK	3015 CI	ASS	П	4	2	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		Х		X		X	X	X	X
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NOTES:

- 1. IN THE AIRCRAFT COLUMNS, AN "X" DENOTES A REQUIREMENT FOR THE LEVEL, AND CLASS, OF OPERATION SPECIFIED; THE NUMBERS 2 AND 3 REFER TO NOTES THAT CLARIFY HELICOPTER DESIGNATIONS; AND NUMBERS 4 AND ABOVE ALSO DENOTE OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND REFER TO CLARIFYING NOTES; AND THE "SHADED AREAS DENOTES NOT APPLICABLE."
- 2. H53 APPLIES ONLY TO THOSE MODELS WITH A 72' 3" DIAMETER MAIN ROTOR SYSTEM, AND SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDES H53E HELICOPTERS WHICH HAVE A 79' 0" DIAMETER MAIN ROTOR SYSTEM.
- 3. H60B/F/H/J HAVE A 15' 6" WHEELBASE; WHEREAS H60A/G/K/S HAVE A 29' 0" WHEELBASE WHICH REQUIRES SIGNIFICANTLY MORE DECK AREA TO ACCOMMODATE THE TAIL WHEEL. IN ADDITION, H60B/F/H ARE THE ONLY AIRCRAFT COMPATIBLE WITH THE SHIPBOARD RECOVERY ASSIST, SECURING, AND TRAVERSING SYSTEM.
- 4. FLIGHT DECK STRUCTURAL CERTIFICATION IS REQUIRED FOR EACH SHIPS' CLASS; PRIOR TO GRANTING LANDING CERTIFICATION FOR V22 AND CH60S AIRCRAFT.
- 5. LEVEL III, CLASS 3 OPERATION OF THE USMC AV8 AIRCRAFT IS ALSO REQUIRED ON AGF 11, LPD 4 CLASS, AND LPD 17 CLASS SHIPS.
- 6. THE AOE 1 CLASS REQUIREMENT FOR CLASS 2A OPERATION OF USN/USMC H53, H53E AND V22 AIRCRAFT, USA H47, AND USAF H53 AND V22 AIRCRAFT APPLY TO THE AOE 4 ONLY.
- 7. ON CG 47 CLASS SHIPS, CLASS 1 FOR H60B HELICOPTERS APPLIES TO LAMPS MK III (SHIPS WITH RAST) CONFIGURED SHIPS; AND CLASS 2 FOR H60B HELICOPTERS APPLIES TO LAMPS MK III SHIPS CONFIGURED WITH ALTERNATE TRAVERSE SYSTEM (ATS).
- 8. LEVEL II, CLASS 3 AND 4 OPERATION OF TH57 HELICOPTERS IS ALSO REQUIRED ON THE IX 514 (HLT).
- 9. ON LPD 4 CLASS SHIPS, THE CLASS 1 REQUIREMENTS FOR H1, H46, AND H53 (EXCEPT H53E) HELICOPTERS APPLY TO LPD 5 THROUGH LPD 15 ONLY. ON THE LPD 4, CLASS 2 (IN LIEU OF CLASS 1) APPLIES FOR THESE HELICOPTERS.
- 10. ON LPD 4 CLASS SHIPS. THE CLASS 2 AND 2A REQUIREMENTS FOR V22 AIRCRAFT APPLY TO LPD 9 THROUGH LPD 15 ONLY.
- 11. ON LSD 41 CLASS SHIPS, THE CLASS 4 REQUIREMENTS FOR V22 AIRCRAFT APPLY TO THE AFT VERTREP LINEUP LINE ONLY.
- 12. ON LST 1179 CLASS SHIPS, THE LEVEL III, CLASS 4 REQUIREMENTS FOR H53E AND V22 AIRCRAFT APPLY TO THE AFT VERTREP LINEUP LINE ONLY.
- 13. THE T-AFS 1 CLASS REQUIREMENT FOR CLASS 5 OPERATION OF V22 AIRCRAFT APPLY TO THE T-AFS 7 ONLY.
- 14. USCG CLASS SHIPS AND HULL NUMBERS ARE ASSOCIATED AS FOLLOWS: WAGB 400 CLASS (WAGB 10 11); WHEC 378 CLASS (WHEC 715 726); WHEC 210 CLASS (WMEC 615 630); AND WMEC 270 CLASS (WMEC 901 913).

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AVIATION OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LHA, LHD, AND MCS SHIPS

LEVEL I - DAY AND NIGHT OPERATIONS, INSTRUMENT METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS

LEVEL II - DAY AND NIGHT OPERATIONS. VISUAL METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS

LEVEL III - DAY ONLY OPERATIONS, VISUAL METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS

CLASS 1 - LANDING/TAKEOFF AND HANGARING WITH FLIGHT/HANGAR DECK SERVICING FACILITIES AND AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE/WEAPONS SUPPORT

CLASS 2 - LANDING/TAKEOFF AND HANGARING WITH FLIGHT/HANGAR DECK WITH SERVICE FACILITIES

CLASS 3 - LANDING/TAKEOFF AND LIMITED FLIGHT DECK SERVICING FACILITIES

CLASS 4 - VERTREP/EXTERNAL LIFT FACILITIES

AMPHIBIOUS				USN/	USMC		U.S	NAVY	, MAF	RINE C	ORPS	, COA	ST GI	JARD,	ARM	Y AND	AIR F	ORCI	E AIRC	CRAFT	(SEE	NOT	E 1)				
ASSAULT/MINE	L	С	USMC		USN		US	SN/USI	ИС		USMC		US	SN		US	CG			US	SA				USAF		
COUNTERMEASURE	E	Ĺ	A	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	V	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	V
SHIP/CLASSES	V	Α	V	1	2	3	4	5	5	2	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	1	6	4	5	6	6	1	5	6	2
	Е	S	8				6	3	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5			7	8	0	4		3	0	2
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	III	4		Χ	Χ	Х	Х				X	Х	Х	Х	Χ	Χ	Χ	Х		Χ		Χ		Χ		Χ	
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CLASS		3									Х							Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ		Χ	Х
(SEE NOTE 3)		4		X	X	X	X	Χ	Х	Х	X	X	X	X	X	X	Х	X		X		X		X	Χ	Х	1
	III	4		Х	Х	Х	Х				Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Χ		Х		Х		Χ	
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MCS 12		2		Х	Χ	Х		Х			.,	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	.,				.,			4		
(SEE NOTES 3 & 5)		3		V	V	V	V	V		X	X	V	V	V/			V	X	Χ	X	Χ	X	Х	X	X	X	Х
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NOTES:

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- 3. THE LEVEL I, CLASS 4 REQUIREMENTS APPLY FORWARD AND AFT OF THE ISLAND ONLY. THE LEVEL III, CLASS 4 REQUIREMENTS APPLY ABEAM THE ISLAND ONLY.
- 4. CLASS 2 OPERATION, OF THE USAF H53 HELICOPTER IS OPTIONAL ON THE MCS 12, AND WILL REQUIRE ADDITIONAL WHEEL SPOT MARKING TO BE ADDED TO THE DECK EDGE ELEVATOR PLATFORM.

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5. FLIGHT DECK STRUCTURAL CERTIFICATION IS REQUIRED FOR MCS 12; PRIOR TO GRANTING LANDING CERTIFICATION FOR V22 AND CH60S AIRCRAFT.